

## SHERIFF'S OFFICE HIGHLIGHTS JUNE 2007

### **Tip a Cop Fundraiser for Special Olympics**

On Saturday 6/23/07 the Sheriff's Office hosted its first Tip-A-Cop fundraiser in partnership with Outback Steakhouse to raise money for Special Olympics. Detention and Patrol staff partnered with Outback staff to



serve food, drinks and wait tables for this special benefit luncheon. Four Special Olympics athletes met patrons at the door and assisted them to their seats. The Sheriff's Office raised approximately \$1,200-\$1,300 dollars from this event. Thanks to everyone who supported this event. Much gratitude to the following staff: Sheriff Pribil, Lt. Cornelius, Deputy Jeremy Cochran, Detention Sgt. Mike Barnes, Detention Officer Sue Thompson, Detention Officer Brandi Bentley-Brown, Detention Officer Alethea Blair, Detention Officer Brittany Franks and Administrative Specialist Debra Taylor.

### **Wildland Fires**

Deputies and Search and Rescue volunteers have been busy assisting with evacuations and road closures during several recent wildland fires. On June 16<sup>th</sup>, several homes were evacuated and part of Townsend Winona Road closed during the Manning Fire. On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the area near Forest Service Road 222 and Forest Service Road 519 were evacuated and closed due to the Wing Fire. Coordination with other public safety agencies has been key to the success of preserving life and property during these events.

### **Dive Team**

Our Dive Team just completed a recent dive certification. The five member Dive Team was formed April 2007 through grant funding from the Law Enforcement Boating Safety Fund. The team currently is composed of officers from our Page Substation. The purpose for the dive team is to provide search and rescue water operations and recoveries in navigable waterways in Coconino County. Training consisted of PADI certification, which is basic scuba instruction and proficiency, advanced dive certification, and search and rescue dive certifications. All five members currently on the team have completed the basic PADI certification and are in the process of evaluating equipment needs. Advanced and search and rescue dive team training, will hopefully be completed by the end of summer 2007. Having our own Dive Team cuts down on costly resources which previously had to be requested from other agencies and were dependent upon availability.



The Coconino County Sheriff's Dive Team will respond to any water related mission in Coconino County and available for requests from surrounding agencies, with approval from the Sheriff.

### **Doney Park Juveniles Charged**

On June 16, 2007 Patrol officers identified and charged four juveniles, ages 12-14, for a series of criminal damage and graffiti in the Doney Park area. The suspects are responsible for broken windows to two homes and one vehicle. They also were responsible for graffiti to three vehicles and one home.

### **Sheriff's Office Develops Intern Program**

Jason Nichols is currently an intern with the Sheriff's Office. Jason is enrolled in the NAU Criminal Justice program with graduation scheduled for fall 2007. His intern program requires 300 hours of law enforcement related experience. Our desire is to expose Jason to a broad perspective of law enforcement applications to round out his experience and give him an understanding for the type of work he will experience in this career. His intern schedule will include "ride alongs" with patrol deputies and assisting and working with criminal investigations, Search and Rescue, and the Community Programs Planner. The program has been very positive for both Jason and the Sheriff's Office. Jason has submitted an application to test for deputy.

### **Medical Unit Holds Vaccination Clinics**

The Medical Unit held four clinics to help bring detention staff and sworn officers up to date on important vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, and Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis. In addition, staff were encouraged and provided the opportunity to continue their regularly testing for TB (tuberculosis).

### **Detention Facility Job Fair**

The Coconino County Detention Facility held its first ever job and community services fair on Saturday, June 23, from 1 – 5 p.m. The detention services programs office along with the Sunnyside Genesis-X re-entry program partnered to hold the event, which was an outgrowth from the jobs skills classes that have been offered to inmates since November 2006.

Eighty inmates attended the fair and their response to the event was tremendously positive. Most rated the fair as good or excellent and the presenters as excellent. Comments about the presenters were very encouraging and included, "We were given good advice about finding jobs; friendly people willing to accept us as criminals; presenters were willing to help."



Ten employers and community organizations participated in this event: Arizona Workforce Connection, Coconino County Human Resources, Goodwill, Native Americans for Community Action, Northern Arizona Council of Governments, Coconino County Community Services, Educational Opportunity Centers, Flagstaff Family Food Center, the O.A.S.I.S. Project at Royal Inn, St. Vincent De Paul, Sunnyside One-Stop Employment Center, and Sunshine Rescue Mission / Hope Cottage. The participants were surprised by the large turnout and gave positive feedback, along with suggestions to make the next fair even better. We are considering holding another fair in six months.

### **Arizona State Search and Rescue (SAR) Coordinators Meeting**

On June 22<sup>nd</sup> the Coconino County Sheriff's Office hosted the quarterly Arizona Sheriff's Search and Rescue Coordinator's Association meeting. This association meets quarterly to discuss trends in search and rescue and coordinate statewide training. The meeting in Flagstaff focused on issues surrounding search and rescue incidents that occur in federal wilderness areas and development of a training course for a search management software program called WCASIE III. This software was developed by Dr. David Lovelock of the University of Arizona along with several other collaborators including our current SAR Coordinator, Sgt. Aaron Dick and one of our previous SAR Coordinators, retired Sgt. Val Paleski.

### **Missing Amtrak Passenger Located**

On June 28<sup>th</sup> the Sheriff's Office was informed of and requested to assist in the search for a man who had been removed from an Amtrak train several days before. The incident occurred on the evening of June 24<sup>th</sup> and the Williams Police Department was the original responding agency. Mr. Roosevelt Sims had been traveling from St. Louis, MO to Los Angeles, CA. The train staff indicated that the subject appeared to be intoxicated and disorderly and that was why he was removed from the train. The location where he was dropped off is an undeveloped railroad siding with no services available. The family had cell phone contact with Mr. Sims and was concerned because he had not arrived at his destination and he sounded disoriented and confused when they spoke with him on the phone. The family reported Mr. Sims missing to the Williams Police Department. When the Sheriff's Office staff became aware of the situation, SAR volunteers, Sheriff's Office detectives, and Sheriff's Office patrol deputies began a search and rescue effort. Mr. Sims was located at approximately 9:40 p.m. on the night of the 28<sup>th</sup>. He was dehydrated and disoriented and was transported to the Flagstaff Medical Center for treatment. This incident received considerable local and national media attention.

